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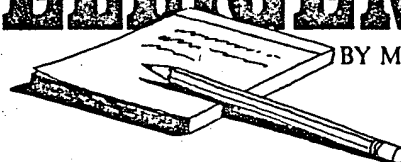
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# INTELLIGENCER

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BY MARY ANNE OSTROM



## The Barbie Connection: Book Says U.S. Found Ex-Nazi in Mid-Sixties

**A** NEW BOOK BY THREE British journalists suggests American officials knew more about the whereabouts of Klaus Barbie, the Nazi "Butcher of Lyons," than the government has admitted.

"I found CIA and army-intelligence documents in the [U.S. government's] 'Barbie' file which show that they had made successful attempts to locate him for a special project" in the mid-sixties, said Mark Hosenball, a contributor to the book, *The Nazi Legacy*. The French were looking for

Barbie at the time—he was exposed in 1972—and last year, a Justice Department report said American officials had basically lost track of him around 1951.

The book says the U.S. Embassy in Bolivia, acting on an army request, found Barbie living in that country under the name Klaus Altmann. It's not known for certain why the army wanted to find him, but some U.S. officials think army intelligence hoped to recruit Barbie to deal with Che Guevara's guerrilla movement, according to Hosen-

ball. He added that the army was looking for a number of former Nazi intelligence officers for a spy project in South America. The CIA tried to discourage the army from pursuing the Barbie project, citing the "potential for bad public relations," said Hosenball. The proposed project was dropped after Guevara was killed, in 1967, and it's unlikely Barbie was ever contacted, Hosenball said.

Last year, Barbie was extradited to France, where he awaits trial on charges of killing and torturing hun-

dreds of Jews while heading the Gestapo office in Lyons. The Justice Department report cited the Barbie project, but seemed to dismiss its importance. "The CIA had more pressing matters in the 1960s to take care of than notifying the French they'd found a possible war criminal," said Ed Bourguignon, a federal investigator who helped compile the report.

The book, due out in February from Holt, Rinehart and Winston, is by Neal Ascherson, Isabel Hilton, and Magnus Linklater.